

Secondary School Committee

April 20, 2017

Attendees

CHAIR John Higgins LISGAR SECRETARY Absent
Liane Jelly CANTERBURY Nadine Clarke CANTERBURY
Donna Garnons-Williams EARL OF MARCH
Catherine Roberts – EARL OF MARCH
Maria Schnarr – SIR ROBERT BORDEN
Kiera Delgaty SOUTH CARLETON
Susan Klimchuk LONGFIELDS-DAVIDSON HEIGHTS
Karen Walker – WOODROFFE

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by John

February 2017 minutes amendment: Corrected Liane Jelly, Donna Garnons-Williams and Kiera Delgaty's names. Corrected the date for next meeting. Also, added outcome of S-Trip at the request of the Chair.

March Meeting: There was no meeting in March.

Presentation at May meeting:

Renald Cousineau –he will be able to attend the meeting to discuss SHSM (Specialist High Skills Major) and “Trades and Technology”
Jane Alexander – waiting to be confirmed for the next meeting to discuss SS review and French as a second language.

Action: John to speak to OCASC about joint May meeting and to confirm the location for the May meeting. An overhead projector will be required as both presenters may be doing presentations.

Consolidation of schools (7-12)

Catherine provided an overview of pros and cons of having Grade 7-8 added to High school. She also provided great advice to Sir Robert Borden on things that they should discuss with the school. Here are some of the items:

- ✓ Communication is very important
- ✓ Communication needed to book and share common spaces
- ✓ Remember you are dealing with 2 different unions
- ✓ Important to schedule common area (e.g. gym, cafeteria, green space, etc)
- ✓ Fundraising – how will it work
- ✓ Request librarian teacher who can work with all grades
- ✓ Take into consideration the noise level
- ✓ Access to psychologist/student services
- ✓ Better data sharing
- ✓ Make sure enough desks and chairs
- ✓ How to split what was in middle school and then incorporated into new school

- ✓ School council represents both, one meeting a month, teacher reps from both, one student rep. Longer meetings
- ✓ LINK for transition from grade 8 (grade 9 students develop leadership) and WEBB for transition to grade 7 (grade 8 students develop leadership)
- ✓ Etc

Sir Robert Borden has 2 transition teams; one for staff and one for students. Recommended new gym, lockers will be mixed, one area separate for intermediate classes, anticipating 5 – 6 portables

Bell

-Bell High School is becoming 7-12 in September 2017; approximately 240 gr 7-8 students will join the school

-a lot of planning effort was put in even before the decisions were voted on, and the principal has been very positive about the change

-some money has been made available to prepare the school for the addition of 7-8s (e.g., building additional change rooms, recess area), but much of the money is going to general upgrades such as adding elevators, upgrading the library to a “Learning Commons”, and upgrading the stage in the cafeteria (Bell does not have an auditorium)

-7-8s classroom and lockers will occupy one wing of Bell, and a new playground area including a basketball court will be built/fenced to accommodate recess time -schedule (start/end times) and access to cafeteria and clubs for the 7-8s are under discussion

-a transition committee with staff, students, and school council members from both Bell and DA Moodie was formed and has met once already and will meet again in May; the focus of the first meeting was airing concerns with the merger, and a lot of time was spent on student voice

-the OCDSB has submitted a grant proposal to the Ministry of Education to get funding to build new gyms at Bell, SRB, and Merivale; Bell School Council has suggested a letter writing campaign to MPPs and the Minister of Ed to request support for the grant

Action: Nadine to send email to Michelle requesting information on process and procedures for transitions in the school configuration discussions (Secondary School Review). Are the cafeteria contracts binding on intermediate levels. Fundraising is very important and pizza lunches are popular and successful. How the decisions are made; school councils, cafeteria, contract with teachers, fundraising, resources and funding? Is there documentation that can be shared with parents?

Prom Update:

West and South Carleton have school sanctioned proms. The later decided by a democratic vote of the student population, Lisgar has a school sanction prom. JR is still trying to recruit for after event party.

Blyth Academy:

John asked if any of the members had ever dealt with this company. Everyone responded no. It was suggested to get more information on the company if parents are considering using them.

Waterloo

Students should know whether the university they will attend will accept AP courses.

General information about a trip to China as part of the OCDSB international student program.

SSC Elections:

Elections are to take place at the May 18th meeting.

Next meeting is May18, 2017